



Oct. 11, 2018

Shannon G. Hardin, Council President
Michael Stinziano, Council President Pro Tempore
Columbus City Council Members

Columbus City Council
90 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of the Columbus Blue Jackets organization, thank you for the opportunity to provide our response to the admissions tax issue before you. I respectfully submit this letter to formally state our organization's opposition to the current proposal of a seven percent admissions tax on events such as our games in the city of Columbus.

A seven percent admissions tax would materially harm our business. Our fans overwhelmingly oppose this current proposal and its implementation would result in lost revenue through an erosion of our season ticket base. NHL clubs are significantly more reliant on ticket revenue than other major professional sports leagues and to endure substantial losses in this area would adversely affect our business, and subsequently, consumer spending throughout the Arena District.

We are proud to have been, along with Nationwide Arena, a catalyst in transforming a once blighted area of Columbus. Through the Columbus Blue Jackets and Nationwide Arena we generate an estimated \$150 million annually in economic impact and have brought major international events such as the 2007 NHL Draft and 2015 NHL All-Star Weekend to our city. In addition, the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation has given back more than \$10.4 million to local organizations through its grant-making program.

We are appreciative of the public/private partnership that is vital to ensuring the long-term viability of maintaining a world-class sports and entertainment venue. We recognize the public sector's need to find a funding solution for Nationwide Arena's capital expense needs and appreciate its willingness to explore options. We are fully prepared to participate in those discussions with City Council to help find a solution. Our hope is that all parties involved can work together on a revised proposal that finds common ground and makes sense for our community as a whole.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Priest
President

**COLUMBUS
BLUE JACKETS**



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